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Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Japan in October 2006 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kenzo **Oshima**
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Annex to the letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Japan (October 2006)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Japan in October 2006, the Security Council made its timely recommendation for the appointment of Mr. Ban Ki-moon as Secretary-General by adopting resolution 1715 (2006), and took swift action regarding the nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by issuing a presidential statement and adopting resolution 1718 (2006). The Council also extended the mandates of peacekeeping missions in Georgia, the Sudan, and Western Sahara and established an integrated office in Burundi, as well as addressing a wide range of issues, in particular those in Africa. In addition, the Council convened one thematic open debate on women and peace, and security.

During the month of October, the Security Council held 17 official meetings and 20 consultations of the whole. It adopted seven resolutions and three presidential statements. The President also made three statements to the press on behalf of the Security Council.

Africa

Burundi

On 25 October, after consultations of the whole, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1719 (2006), establishing an integrated office in Burundi, with an initial mandate of one year, to begin following the expiration on 31 December 2006 of the mandate of the current peacekeeping mission in the country, the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB). The Council defined a number of priorities for the new United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) as recommended in the Secretary-General's latest report on the country (S/2006/429 and Add.1). They include support for peace consolidation and the establishment of democratic governance, as well as security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants; promotion and protection of human rights; and strengthening donor and United Nations agency coordination for development. While the Council charged BINUB with coordinating the work of United Nations agencies in Burundi under the leadership of the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, it took note of the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in the consolidation of peace in the country.

On 31 October, in consultations of the whole, the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Nureldin Satti, presented the latest report of the Secretary-General on ONUB (S/2006/842). While affirming that there had been an improvement in security following the signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu-Forces nationales de libération (FNL), he highlighted the challenges related to that agreement. They include issues not directly addressed by it, such as the possible

participation of FNL members in national institutions, and delays in implementation given the lack of participation by FNL in the joint verification and monitoring mechanism launched by the Government and the South African Facilitation. He explained that the Facilitation had requested an adjustment to the withdrawal of ONUB military contingents until the African Union (AU) task force, established to provide security for implementation, could be deployed in December. He noted that political tensions also remained high, owing in part to strained relations between the Government and the media as well as protests by many political parties and civil society groups concerning the arrest, treatment and continued detention of alleged coup plotters. Finally, while indicating that there had been substantial progress in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, he acknowledged that progress was limited in security sector reform and the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms.

Expressing concern at the fragility of the security and political situation in Burundi, the members of the Council called on the parties to implement the ceasefire agreement expeditiously. They encouraged the rapid deployment of the AU task force and indicated their readiness to consider the Secretary-General's forthcoming recommendations on adjusting the drawdown schedule for ONUB troops. They also welcomed the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission, which had held its first country-specific meeting on Burundi on 13 October, in supporting the transition from ONUB to BINUB.

Central African Republic

On 30 October, in a private debate, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), General Lamine Cissé, presented the interim report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2006/828). The Prime Minister of the Central African Republic, Élie Doté, also briefed the Council on developments in the country.

The Special Representative stressed that, despite the efforts of the authorities, insecurity in the north of the country, due to the activities of rebel groups and armed bands within those areas and on the borders with Chad and the Sudan, remained the most serious obstacle to the consolidation of peace and economic progress. He welcomed the decision of the Government of the Central African Republic to support the deployment of United Nations troops along its border with the Sudan, while noting that the Multinational Force (FOMUC) of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community continued to help the Central African defence forces in addressing those problems as they underwent restructuring. In addition, he outlined efforts to establish a permanent dialogue among all the political stakeholders in the country, with the assistance of BONUCA, and referred to the social tensions and financial difficulties impeding progress in those efforts. The Prime Minister then detailed the comprehensive programme of the Government in the areas of the establishment of security, economic stabilization and structural reforms, and reconstruction of the infrastructure.

The members of the Council expressed appreciation for the stabilizing role of FOMUC and various initiatives to promote dialogue. They also reaffirmed their support for a subregional approach to tackling the country's security challenges with the assistance of the international community.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 25 October, at a private meeting, the Council received a briefing from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Said Djinnit, on the decision taken by the AU Peace and Security Council at its meeting in Addis Ababa on 17 October regarding the political impasse in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. Endorsing the proposals of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), he reported that, given the unfeasibility of holding presidential elections by 31 October 2006, the African Union recommended a further transition period not to exceed one year, beginning on 1 November 2006. Key tasks for this period would include the identification of voters, disarmament of combatants, dismantling of militias, restoration of State authority throughout the country, and technical preparations for elections. The AU Commissioner further recommended that during this period President Laurent Gbagbo remain Head of State while the Prime Minister, Charles Konan Banny, would be endowed with all necessary powers to implement the above-mentioned tasks. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, Youssouf Bakayoko, provided a statement endorsing the African Union's decision.

Following the meeting, in consultations of the whole, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Pierre Schori, presented the latest progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) (S/2006/821). The High Representative for elections in that country, Gérard Stoudman, also briefed the Council, and the Secretary-General offered his observations. Focusing on urgent measures needed to relaunch the peace process in view of the current deadlock, the Special Representative stressed that the modalities for the transition should be clearly defined to prevent any political elements from obstructing progress. He placed priority on restarting the public hearings of the mobile courts for the identification process, bolstering the capacity of peacekeeping forces, instituting benchmarks for implementing the road map, and holding individuals accountable for disruptions thereto. The High Representative for the elections stated that, in addition to the completion of the certification process and registration of voters, increased freedom of movement, reduced incitement to violence by the media and substantial progress in demobilization of rebels and dismantlement of militias were prerequisites for credible elections. Given the lack of political will among political leaders, the Secretary-General called for the Council to remain actively engaged, by monitoring adherence to transition timelin

On 31 October, following consultations of the whole, the members of the Council agreed to have further consultations with a view to adopting a resolution on 1 November regarding a transitional arrangement.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 17 October, in consultations of the whole, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the Council on the preparations for the presidential run-off and provincial assembly elections to be held on 29 October in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Although he indicated that the security situation remained relatively stable at the time of the briefing, he noted that the calm that had been restored in Kinshasa after violent election-related incidents in August was fragile, given the mistrust and lack of confidence between the two

candidates, President Joseph Kabila and Vice-President Jean-Pierre Bemba. Despite the thorough measures taken and mechanisms put in place by the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to help guarantee a fair, credible and transparent electoral process, the Assistant Secretary-General stressed that the candidates themselves bore primary responsibility to refrain from incitement to violence or casting doubt on the results, and that the media also had an obligation to grant equal access to both candidates without providing a platform for hate messages.

Concerned about the potential escalation in tensions, which could undermine the considerable progress in the democratic transition of the Democratic Republic of the Congo at this critical juncture, the Council members affirmed the importance of sending a message to the candidates to exercise maximum restraint during and after the polling. They also expressed their intention to closely monitor the post-election situation, as MONUC would play a key role in addressing the challenges of that period.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

On 17 October, in consultations of the whole, under "Other matters", the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on recent developments in Eritrea and Ethiopia. He stated that, on 16 October, the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) had reported that the Eritrean Defence Forces had moved approximately 1,500 armed troops and 15 tanks into the Temporary Security Zone, describing this action as a major breach of the ceasefire and the integrity of the Zone. He also noted that the Eritrean troops had prevented the movement of UNMEE personnel in the area. After the meeting, the President of the Council delivered a statement to the press in which the members called on Eritrea to immediately withdraw its troops from the Temporary Security Zone and lift the restrictions imposed on UNMEE. The Council members further called on both parties to show maximum restraint and on Ethiopia to fully implement the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission.

Guinea-Bissau

On 4 October, in consultations of the whole, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomeh, presented the latest report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) (S/2006/783). While highlighting progress made in efforts to improve the political climate in the country, in particular reconciliation within the main political parties and the process of national dialogue, he stressed the continuing economic hardships that undermined such efforts. He also provided an update on collaboration among ECOWAS, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the United Nations, including the creation of an international contact group on Guinea-Bissau to assist with institutional capacity-building, security sector and other reforms, and development. He further informed the Council of the Secretary-General's intention to prepare shortly a report containing his recommendations for the revision and extension of the mandate of UNOGBIS.

Most Council members expressed support for the proposed extension of the mandate and their readiness to consider the Secretary-General's forthcoming recommendations.

Liberia

On 20 October, in consultations of the whole, the Permanent Representative of Denmark and Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, Ambassador Ellen Løj, briefed the Council on the status of the diamond and timber sanctions imposed on that country and discussions in the Committee. As required by resolution 1689 (2006), the Council conducted reviews of its decisions to lift the ban on imports of round logs and timber products and to renew the ban on imports of rough diamonds until 20 December 2006.

Following the consultations, the President of the Council delivered a statement to the press in which the members commended both the Liberian legislature for adopting legislation to ensure a transparent, accountable and government-regulated forestry sector and the Government of Liberia for developing related reforms. They concluded that there was no basis for reinstating the timber sanctions, while calling on the Liberian authorities to ensure effective implementation of the legislation and reforms. Members also stated that they were encouraged by the steps Liberia had taken towards meeting the requirements for the lifting of the diamond sanctions, while urging the Government to accelerate implementation of the necessary reform measures, so that Liberia could join the international certification process known as the Kimberley Process.

Sudan

On 5 October, in consultations of the whole, the Council discussed preparations for the deployment of personnel for the expanded United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in Darfur and also addressed United Nations reinforcement of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS).

On 6 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1714 (2006), extending the mandate of UNMIS until 30 April 2007. The Council had before it the latest report of the Secretary-General on the overall situation in the country (S/2006/728), which contained his recommendation for the renewal of the mandate. In its decision, the Council called upon the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to urgently accelerate the progress of its implementation. Regarding Darfur, the Council welcomed the decision of the AU Peace and Security Council on 20 September to extend the mandate of AMIS until 31 December 2006, and encouraged the Secretary-General and the African Union in their efforts to implement the aspects of resolution 1706 (2006) providing for United Nations assistance to AMIS. The Council also called upon the parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement and the N'Djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement to respect their commitments and fully and expeditiously implement all aspects of those agreements. It further called upon those parties that have not signed the Darfur Peace Agreement to do so without delay.

On 27 October, in consultations of the whole, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Jan Pronk, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Council on the

situation in the Sudan. The Special Representative reaffirmed his five proposals to save the Darfur Peace Agreement. The Under-Secretary-General provided an update on developments in the area of eastern Chad bordering Darfur, in particular, and emphasized the necessity of United Nations support for AMIS.

The members of the Council expressed regret at the demand of the Government of the Sudan for the removal of Mr. Pronk from his position and support for the Secretary-General's decision to retain him in his current post, while affirming the importance of preserving a good working relationship with the Government in seeking a political solution to the conflict in Darfur.

Western Sahara

On 25 October, after a private meeting held with troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, in consultations of the whole, presented the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2006/817). In addition, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, briefed the Council on his efforts and findings, as contained in the report.

Despite improvements in the capacity of MINURSO to monitor the ceasefire in Western Sahara through an increase in patrols, the Assistant Secretary-General stressed that the security situation remained tense, as the armed forces of the two sides continued to have no direct contact with each other, and several demonstrations by Saharans regarding alleged human rights abuses had led to violent confrontations. In addition, although ceasefire violations by both sides had decreased, certain long-standing violations by both parties, including the presence of equipment and personnel within restricted areas, had continued, and both sides continue to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement of MINURSO personnel. The Assistant Secretary-General noted, however, that the programme of exchange of family visits between the Territory and the refugee camps in the Tindouf area of Algeria, an important confidence-building measure, was expected to resume in November 2006 after being suspended in May 2006. The Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General emphasized that, given that the Council was seeking a consensual solution to the issue of the Territory's status, the only option to avoid indefinite prolongation of the impasse was direct negotiations between the two parties.

While appreciating the stabilizing role of MINURSO, the members of the Council expressed concern that the continuation of the status quo was having negative repercussions for the region as a whole and could lead to a renewal of armed struggle in the Territory.

On 31 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1720 (2006), extending the mandate of MINURSO until 30 April 2007, as recommended in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to assisting the parties in achieving a mutually acceptable settlement that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and called on Member States to consider voluntary contributions to fund confidence-building measures that would allow for increased contact between separated family members.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 9 October, at a private meeting, the Council received briefings from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Tom Koenigs, and the Director-General of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, on developments in Afghanistan since the last briefing in July 2006. Statements were made by the representatives of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Referring to the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan (S/2006/727), the Special Representative highlighted the upsurge in violence, particularly in the south, south-east and east of the country, the composition of the insurgency largely responsible for the violence, and the expanded operations of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in combating the insurgency. In outlining the current challenges of reforming and bolstering the Afghan security forces, justice system, and institutions for the protection of human rights, he provided an update on the assistance given by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and other international partners in overcoming those challenges, addressing urgent humanitarian needs, and promoting development through the Afghanistan Compact. The Director-General of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime focused on the corruption, economic hardships and insecurity underlying the marked increase in opium production and trafficking despite law enforcement efforts in the area of counter-narcotics.

Following the meeting, the President of the Council delivered a statement to the press in which the members expressed their concern about the security situation, insofar as the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist elements were seeking to disrupt the efforts of the Afghan National Security Forces and ISAF to bolster the extension of Government authority throughout the country. They affirmed their continuing support for the expanded activities of UNAMA and other United Nations organizations in the country, implementation of the Government's national drug-control strategy, and implementation of the Afghanistan Compact. In addition, the members affirmed their willingness to send a Security Council mission to Afghanistan at an appropriate time, possibly in November 2006, to assess the situation on the ground and provide the Afghan people with assurances of the Council's commitment. The members also welcomed efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and its neighbours to foster mutual trust and cooperation while expressing eagerness for increased cooperation among them in combating extremist elements.

Lebanon

On 30 October, in consultations of the whole, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen, briefed the Council on the latest report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2006/832). Despite setbacks related to the recent conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, he highlighted recent progress on the part of the Government of Lebanon, as a result of its determination to extend its control over all of its territory and the step it had taken in deploying its armed forces to the south of the country. However, he affirmed that significant challenges remained for the Government in fully

implementing resolution 1559 (2004), in particular the disarmament and disbandment of all militias through an inclusive political process and the establishment of an area south of the Litani River free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). As other Member States had a significant role to play as well, he emphasized the importance of ensuring full compliance with the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1701 (2006) and progress towards the normalization of relations between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic as well as the delineation of their common border, including the Shab'a Farms area.

Following consultations, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/43) in which it reaffirmed its support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon and commended the Government for extending its authority throughout the whole of Lebanese territory, particularly in the south. The Council also expressed regret that some provisions of resolution 1559 (2004) had not yet been implemented, namely the disbanding and disarming of all militias and the holding of free and fair presidential elections. Finally, the Council indicated that it looked forward to further recommendations from the Secretary-General on the relevant outstanding issues related to the implementation of resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1701 (2006).

The Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 19 October, after consultations of the whole, the Council held its monthly public meeting on the situation in the Middle East, during which the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Alvaro de Soto, briefed the members on the latest developments in the region. Focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he drew attention to the continuing deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in Gaza as well as the internal strife within the Palestinian Authority. In order to halt these trends and open a path to dialogue, he urged the formation of a government of national unity capable of garnering the support of the international community. He also touched upon the situation in Lebanon, stressing that, despite momentum generated in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) following the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that had been brought to an end on 14 August, the serious political tensions in the country remained a source of concern.

In the ensuing debate, most Council members expressed the view that the Palestinian Government must clearly demonstrate its commitment to achieving coexistence with Israel through dialogue in order to make progress in the peace process. Most members also reaffirmed their support for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and previous resolutions relating to the sovereignty of Lebanon. In addition to the Council members, the representatives of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine, Israel, Bahrain, Finland, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements.

Timor-Leste

On 27 October, in consultations of the whole, pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 1704 (2006), the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations provided a briefing on the Secretary-General's review of the arrangements between the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

(UNMIT) and the Australia-led international security forces in Timor-Leste. He informed the Council that, following extensive, separate consultations between the Secretariat and the Governments of Timor-Leste and Australia, and in the light of the views expressed by the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, José Ramos-Horta, the Secretariat was seeking assurances that the international security forces would provide the dedicated capacity of two armed companies, one for the protection of United Nations personnel and property in the country and the other as a backup for UNMIT police. To that end, the Secretariat was at that time in consultation with the Government of Australia regarding technical arrangements.

Most members of the Council expressed their appreciation for the stabilizing role of both the UNMIT police force and the international security forces and their support for the intention expressed in the letter dated 19 October 2006 from the Government of Timor-Leste to the Secretary-General. They encouraged the United Nations and the Government of Australia to conclude the necessary technical agreement at an early date in order to guarantee the safety of United Nations personnel in Timor-Leste, and encouraged other countries to contribute personnel to the international security forces. Some members reiterated the view that the international security forces in Timor-Leste should be placed under United Nations command, while they also expressed their intention to respect the position of the Government of Timor-Leste in this regard.

Europe

Georgia

On 6 October, after a private meeting held with troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), in consultations of the whole the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia, Jean Arnault, presented the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2006/771). He focused on setbacks to the negotiation process as a result of events that generated volatility in the zone of conflict. In particular, he cited the Georgian special operation in the upper Kodori Valley launched on 25 July, which had stalled the resumption of dialogue. Reporting on the notification on 29 September by the Georgian authorities of their decision to allow a one-off resumption of joint patrols in the upper Kodori Valley by UNOMIG and the collective peacekeeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), he underlined the need for this to lead to a full resumption of monitoring.

The members of the Council called on both the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to exercise restraint and strictly adhere to the ceasefire arrangements under the 1994 Moscow Agreement so as to achieve a negotiated settlement, and expressed their support for the continuing efforts of UNOMIG in facilitating dialogue to achieve that end.

On 13 October, after consultations of the whole held that day and the previous day, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1716 (2006), extending the mandate of UNOMIG until 15 April 2007, as recommended in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General. Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, the Council supported all efforts to promote a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict only by peaceful means. The Council

expressed its concern with regard to the actions of the Georgian side in the Kodori Valley in July 2006, and urged it to ensure that the situation there was in line with the Moscow Agreement. Acknowledging the important role of the CIS peacekeeping force and of UNOMIG in the conflict zone, the Council called on all sides to continue to extend the necessary cooperation to them. The Council noted with satisfaction the resumption of joint patrols in the upper Kodori Valley by UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force, and reaffirmed that joint patrols should be conducted on a regular basis. Stressing the need for both parties to fully comply with all agreements, the Council commended the presentation by both sides of ideas as the basis for dialogue and urged both parties to resume dialogue by using all existing mechanisms.

Thematic issues

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 6 October, after consultations of the whole, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/41) in connection with the consideration of the item entitled "Letter dated 4 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/481)". The Council expressed deep concern over the statement of 3 October by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in which it stated that the country would conduct a nuclear test in the future. Stressing that such a move would bring universal condemnation, the Council urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from conducting the test or taking any action that might aggravate tension. The Council also urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return immediately and without precondition to the six-party talks, to work towards expeditious implementation of the joint statement of 19 September 2005 and to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes. The Council declared that in the event that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were to conduct a nuclear test, it would represent a clear threat to international peace and security, and the Council would act consistent with its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations.

On 14 October, after consultations of the whole, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1718 (2006), condemning the nuclear test proclaimed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October, and expressing the gravest concern at the challenge such a test presented to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and its clear threat to international peace and security. The Council demanded that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea refrain from conducting further nuclear tests or ballistic missile launches, abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile programme; called upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return immediately to the six-party talks without precondition; and encouraged the diplomatic efforts of all relevant parties to facilitate their early resumption to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter and taking measures under its Article 41, the Council decided to prohibit the provision to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of seven categories of conventional arms as defined for the purpose of the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms, materials and

technology relating to weapons of mass destruction and related training, as well as luxury goods. In addition, the Council required all States to freeze the assets of persons or entities engaged in or providing support for the weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes, including through other illicit means. Moreover, the Council required all States to prevent the travel of those persons responsible for policies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in relation to programmes related to weapons of mass destruction. The Council called upon all States to take cooperative action, including through inspection of cargo as necessary, in accordance with their respective national authorities and legislation to ensure compliance with the requirements of paragraph 8 of the resolution, thereby preventing illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their delivery systems and related materials. The Council also decided to establish a committee to undertake the tasks set out in paragraph 12 of the resolution.

Women and peace and security

On 26 October, the Council held a public meeting on women and peace, and security at which the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Rachel Mayanja, presented the recent report of the Secretary-General on this issue (S/2006/770). The report provided an assessment of the progress of the system-wide action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which went into effect earlier in 2006. While affirming that the organizations of the United Nations system had made commendable efforts in implementation, the Special Adviser emphasized that significant challenges remained, especially in ensuring women's equal participation in the consolidation of peace. Overcoming those challenges would require the full political will of the international community, clear accountability on the part of Governments and the allocation of sufficient resources and capacities by both States and United Nations entities.

After the Special Adviser, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations addressed the Council. He highlighted the particular problem of insecurity that many women endure in post-conflict situations. He also noted that there were pockets of resistance to the transformation of the working culture of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and affirmed that deploying a greater number of female peacekeepers was imperative. The Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Noeleen Heyzer, emphasized that peacebuilding efforts must ensure women's physical and economic security, sustainable peace required real justice for women, and peace processes required institutional change and stronger accountability systems. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Carolyn McAskie, stressed that the recently established Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund, and the Peacebuilding Office that she directs all have important roles in increasing the involvement of women in peacebuilding activities, including through the engagement of civil society.

In the ensuing debate, in addition to all of the members of the Council, 30 Member States and the representatives of two non-governmental organizations made statements. Most speakers emphasized the importance of national implementation, improving women's political participation and the role of the Peacebuilding Commission. Many also acknowledged that further progress was necessary to achieve the goals set out in resolution 1325 (2000). At the end of the

meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/42) in which it conveyed the view that it is essential to promote the equal and full participation of women in rebuilding societies emerging from conflict by protecting and empowering women, while strongly condemning all acts of sexual misconduct by United Nations peacekeepers. The Council also encouraged States to ensure that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in institutional reform of the security sector and the rule of law, and welcomed the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in providing assistance to that end.

Other issues

International Court of Justice

On 27 October, in a private debate, the Council received a briefing from the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Rosalyn Higgins, on the work of the Court as it relates to that of the Security Council.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

On 13 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1717 (2006), extending until 31 December 2008 the term of office of 18 ad litem judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda who were elected on 25 June 2003.

Recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

On 9 October, at a private meeting, the Council adopted by acclamation resolution 1715 (2006), recommending that Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations for a five-year term starting on 1 January 2007. The President of the Council addressed a letter to the President of the General Assembly informing her of this recommendation and made comments to the press announcing the Council's decision.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 20 October, in consultations of the whole, the members of the Council agreed to elect Ambassador Peter Burian, Permanent Representative of Slovakia, as Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the period ending on 31 December 2006. The members also agreed to elect Argentina and Qatar as Vice-Chairmen for the period.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 25 October, in consultations of the whole, the members of the Council agreed to elect Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales, Permanent Representative of Peru, as Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for the period ending on 31 December 2006. It was agreed that Japan would continue to serve as Vice-Chairmen for the period.